IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first full paragraph, lines 8-24, of page 13 as follows below:

Once completed (*e.g.*, at expiration of the convergence time), the dynamic IPG determiner 316 programs the inter packet gap unit 306 with the previous IPG value, which should contain a suitable IPG value that facilitates throughput (since it represents the IPG value during the convergence time that had the lowest number of measured collisions). It is appreciated that the network and operational characteristics of the network can change over time. For example, other stations can be added or removed from the network thereby modifying collision occurrence and network traffic patterns. Thus, a well suited IPG value may, at a later time, become less well suited. Accordingly, the value remains in the inter packet gap unit 306 for a steady state time period where that IPG value is employed in collision recovery/re-transmission. The steady state period is selected to balance between obtaining possibly better IPG values and processing power and time required to dynamically determine new IPG value(s). In one embodiment, a steady state time period of one second can be selected.